Let’s Wrap For a While!
A SAS Macro to Output Text

Faith Reneé Sloan
Syntex Development Research, Palo Alto, California

ABSTRACT
A request from a client to output text fields to a SAS report and have it look pretty and readable is a rather common request. More times than not, we need to coerce a seemingly enormous amount of text into a pre-defined report column. The problem with simply using a "PUT" statement or a PROC PRINT is that we end up with 'sloppy' output due to word endings being truncated at the most inopportune times. Here is a macro that was designed to make this task easier by giving you more control in formatting your text output.

SOURCE CODE
The following WRAPIT macro needs three parameters. The PRTWIDTH parameter indicates the width of each output line in a column. The PRTCOL parameter indicates the position to begin outputting the text. And the TEXT parameter is the actual text the user desires to output.

MACRO WRAPIT(prtwidth,prtcol,text);
length text leftover $200;
fini = 0;
next = 0;
trimtext=trim(&text) ;
lentext=length(trimtext);
text=substr(trimtext,1,&prtwidth) ;
leftover = &text;
do until (fini);
len = length(trim(leftover));
if len > &prtwidth then do;
  do i = 1 to &prtwidth;
    if substr(text,i,1) in (' ','/',',','.','-',')
      then holdit=i;
  text = substr(trim(leftover),
  len-1,len-1-holdit);
  do i = holdit to 1;
    put @ &prtcol text;
  end;
  leftover = substr(trim(leftover),
  next+1,nex t+1+l entext- next);
end;
else if (len <= &prtwidth) then do;
  put @ &prtcol text;
  fini = 1;
end;
%MEND WRAPIT;

NOTE: AUTOEXEC processing completed.

MACRO INVOCATION TEST SOURCE CODE
The following code will invoke the WRAPIT macro passing the following parameters: a output width of 25, a column output position of 5 to begin printing the text, and, and the text string, "In normal volunteers and hypersecretors, PEPCID inhibited basal and nocturnal gastric secretion, as well as secretion stimulated by food and pentagastrin." See the log below for the generated output.

data testwrap:
/* wrapit(prtwidth,prtcol,text) */
  %wrapit(25,5,In normal volunteers and hypersecretors, PEPCID inhibited basal and nocturnal gastric secretion, as well as secretion stimulated by food and pentagastrin.);
run;

NOTE: The data set WORK.TESTWRAP has 1 observations and 9 variables.
NOTE: Compressing data set WORK.TESTWRAP decreased size by 0.00 percent.
Compressed is 1 pages; un-compressed would require 1 pages.

SAS is a registered trademark of SAS Institute Inc. in the USA and other countries. © indicates USA registration.